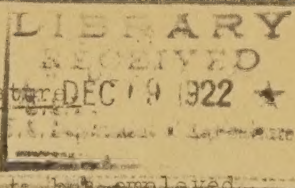


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Your committee, in attacking the project delegated to it, has employed tactics which are possibly a little unusual. It has given its attention not only to the compilation of a list of names but to the more fundamental conceptions of name formation and growth. Study has been given to suggestions submitted by various entomologists and editors, to dictionaries of the English language and to certain papers on Semantics. In fact an attempt has been made to review, in a preliminary way, the entire subject of the popular names of insects.

The position has been taken that, first of all, names born naturally should be favored and that any operative procedure in bringing names into being should be resorted to only when such natural born names are unavailable. It is further believed that since these names are for popular usage the question of academic entomological exactitude is less vital than that of simplicity and utility.

A preliminary examination has shown that no uniform system has heretofore been adopted in the consideration of the subject, inconsistencies of many kinds being at once evident. These were especially noted in the orthographic form of the compounds passed upon or suggested. While it is realized that rules for the form of compounds are scarcely traceable either in the ancient or modern periods of the English language it is felt that some plan of work should be prepared as a first step.

The use of the hyphen appears to have developed at about Shakespeare's time. In old English manuscripts such as those published by the Chaucer Society it is unknown. In the original edition of Shakespeare, on the other hand, the hyphen is excessively used, while Dr. Johnson used it in most common words in his dictionary and ran together unusual compounds such as ploughmonday.

Modern English usage is extremely irregular. In fact even on the same page of the same work one may find variable usage. The tendency, however, seems to be to hyphenate with first element stress or with a syntactical group as the first element. The modern tendency of printers appears to be to omit hyphens if authors permit and we have seen papers in which even the periods were not printed.

The fact that, during the past year, twenty or more members of this Association have given considerable thought and time to co-operative work on the project delegated to this committee, would indicate that the matter of common names is of general interest.

1,000 names, compiled from practically all the available American publications on economic entomology, have passed through the hands of systematists for the purpose of bringing the scientific names up to date. The list has been widely circulated. Every member of the Association who has expressed either a desire or a willingness to see the list has been supplied with a copy.

The present status of the list is what would logically be expected from a compilation; it represents, in an impartial way, the inconsistencies to be found in our entomological publications (past and present).





To edit this list of 1,000 names would be a haphazard performance without the use of rules to serve as guides in the choice and construction of the common names. Such rules should be basic enough to satisfy not only the present need but to serve future committees in the same capacity.

The present committee does not understand that it has authority to proceed in this manner without the expressed sanction of the general Association. If the Association is willing to vote to accept as rules for guidance in regard to common names, the list of suggestions hereto appended and forming part of this report which has been distributed for examination previous to this meeting, the committee thinks that the task assigned to it two years ago can proceed without further delay.

The present committee does not understand that it has been commissioned to modify (except editorially) any common names previously adopted by the Association. In certain cases such names are now known to be incorrect through misidentification or similar cause. Other names prove to be too cumbersome; and still others, even though simple, have not met with any universal usage. The committee, therefore, recommends that it be given authority to review the official lists and resubmit them with the new list prepared.

The editorial work on the list under consideration requires a very considerable amount of conference. Such conference is not possible among entomologists so widely distributed as are the members of the present committee. The committee, therefore, recommends that the Committee on Nomenclature be enlarged by four of the entomologists residing in Washington, Messrs. A. C. Baker; A. N. Caudell; J. A. Hyslop, and S. A. Rohwer, who have greatly aided the committee during the past year. This would make it possible to refer to taxonomists points of nomenclature, without the loss of time previously experienced; and would facilitate consultation on various matters important to the work of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Edith M. Patch

Arthur Gibson

Z. P. Metcalf

Committee.



It is the duty of the Association to provide for the welfare of its members and to maintain its financial position. The Association should be able to pay its bills and to provide for the needs of its members. It should be able to do this without the help of the Government.

The present committee is not a permanent one. It is a committee of inquiry. It is to report to the Association on the state of its affairs. It is to report on the state of the Association's finances. It is to report on the state of the Association's membership. It is to report on the state of the Association's work.

The present committee does not intend to do anything that is not in the best interests of the Association. It is to report to the Association on the state of its affairs. It is to report on the state of the Association's finances. It is to report on the state of the Association's membership. It is to report on the state of the Association's work.

The editorial work in the first number of the Association's journal is of a very high standard. The editorial work in the first number of the Association's journal is of a very high standard. The editorial work in the first number of the Association's journal is of a very high standard. The editorial work in the first number of the Association's journal is of a very high standard.

Respectfully submitted,

E. F. Watson

Arthur Watson

E. F. Watson

Watson

- Suggested Rules -

In preparing a set of rules as a first step in the study of names no attempt has been made to reflect the visible tendencies of modern English. Indeed this would be impossible. It is believed, however, that only such rules have been formulated as will give a better sense conception, and that the result of their application will not be far from the usual English usage.

- Rule 1. - A common name should be given only when the insect is of particular interest on account of its economic importance, its striking appearance, or its abundant occurrence.
2. - When feasible a common name, used in any publication, should be accompanied by a reference to the scientific name. (This stand is taken because of the fact that the literature of entomology is international; and publications, even though popular, are often consulted by students outside our own colloquial sphere.)
  3. - A common name should, in general, be of two parts: one part indicating the family, group, or class to which the insect belongs; and the other a modifying part, limiting this to a specific insect. Examples: Striped blister-beetle, terrapin scale, fall armyworm.
  4. - In compounding words the hyphen should be used to connect words which together form the group name; except when the last part of the name indicates an incorrect systematic group or when it is a noun implying an intransitive action, in which cases no hyphen is to be used. Examples: Stink-bug, flea-beetle, leaf-miner, leaf-roller, twig-girdler, armyworm, sawfly, grasshopper, treehopper, frog hopper, waterstrider.
  5. - The hyphen should not be used to connect the group name and the modifying name. Examples: Bean weevil, yellow mealworm, hop aphid, plum curculio.
  6. - When two or more words, expressing one idea, are included in a modifying part of the name, these words should be connected by the Hyphen. Examples: twelve-spotted cucumber-beetle, grape-berry moth.
  7. - When two distinct ideas are expressed in the modifying part of the name the hyphen should be omitted between the words representing these separate ideas. Examples: Round-headed apple-tree borer, Florida red scale.
  8. - Group names:  
The use of systematic group names as a basis for common names should be discouraged. Examples: Green diabrotica, two-spotted doryphora, oak eriococcus.  
When a well known English name exists for a group, family or a number of insects with similar habits or similar characteristics, it should be used in preference to any other. Examples: Beetle, weevil, walkingstick, scale, leaf-roller.







9. - Modifying words:

The modifying names should be based, if possible, on some outstanding characteristic of the insect; and the direct translation of other than descriptive specific names should be avoided. Examples: (satisfactory) oyster-shell scale, two-striped walkingstick; (unsatisfactory) Abbot's sawfly, Baker's mealy-bug.

The modifying name may be based on a geographic region which constitutes the original home of the insect or in which it first attained economic importance, but the adoption of such names is to be discouraged. Examples: Oriental peach moth, American cockroach, San Jose scale, Japanese beetle.

The modifying name may be based on a co-relation between the insect and its host. Example: Emasculating bot-fly.

The modifying name should not be based on the name of an insect's host unless this host is known to be its outstanding and important one. Examples: Pear thrips, wheat midge, cabbage aphid, corn billbug not chufa billbug.

10. - More than one host-plant should not be used in a common name. Examples Plum and thistle aphid.
11. - While in certain exceptional instances it may be advisable to sanction two different common names for the same insect, this is objectionable and a practice to be avoided. Examples: Bollworm, corn earworm; cotton aphid, melon aphid.
12. - Names already in common use should be retained in so far as is possible; but they should be made to agree in formation with the recommendations in paragraphs 3-7 inclusive.

